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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

HORNAUER et al.

Serial Number: 09/184,043

Filed: November 2, 1998



Group Art Unit: 1641

Examiner: M. Ceperley

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For: POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL-DERIVATIZED BIOMOLECULES AND THEIR USE
IN HETEROGENEOUS DETECTION METHODS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 22, 2000

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 24, 2000, in connection with the above-identified patent application. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment without prejudice.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 8-10, 12, 39 and 40.

Please amend claim 11 as follows.

Claim 11 (Amended). Use of a conjugate [as claimed in claim 8 of 9] for reducing the unspecific binding to a solid phase in a method for the detection of an analyte, said conjugate of the general structural formula (la) or (lb):

$$P_r[-(AO)_nT]_m \quad (la)$$

$$P_r-I[-(AO)_nT]_m \quad (lb)$$